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Title disputes in regard to ryotwari patta.

*436 Q.—SRI S. T. ADITYAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there has been serious delay in the decision of title disputes to ryotwari patta by Settlement Officers under section 15 of Act XXVI of 1948;

(b) whether any legal defects have been disclosed in the working of the Act; and

(c) what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government to remedy the same?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—
"(a) No instance of serious delay has been brought to the notice of the Government.
"(b) & (c) Certain suggestions have been received by the Government and are being examined."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN:—"Has there been a representation from the Ryots' Association of Tirunelveli district on this point?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"Yes, Sir."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"The Hon. Minister said that there had been no delay in this respect. When the Estates Abolition Act was passed, the Government gave the impression that the settlement work would be over in three or four years. Already, nearly six years have elapsed. Still, the Hon. Minister says that there has been no undue delay. Then, what is the time the Government require for a settlement work to be completed? May I also know what is undue delay and what is reasonable delay?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"I admit that there is some delay. I said in my answer that there had been no serious delay. The Government are taking all steps to expedite the work. In fact, in the pre-partition days an amending Bill was brought up in order to remove defects and prevent delay. But the hon. Member knows that it could not be proceeded with. The Board is now examining the question. As soon as the examination is over, we shall take action."

SRI S. VENKATRAMA AYYAR:—"With regard to the legal defect in the matter of inquiries under sections 15 and 56 (1) (c) of the Estates Abolition Act, have Government received representations about the anomalous position arising out of conflicting decisions with regard to the same subject-matter of dispute under both the sections by different Settlement Officers and, if so, may I know whether the Government will be pleased to frame appropriate rules providing a common machinery for inquiry into such cases contemplated under sections 15 and 56?"

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"For the information of the House, I may state that the hon. Member also sent a memorandum in this connection. The whole matter is being considered by the Board."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I know what is the maximum time that the Government require to complete this settlement work and when they hope to finish it?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"In such matters, we cannot fix either a minimum or a maximum time."

SRI S. JAYARAMA REDDIYAR:—"இதற்கு முன்பு ஜமாபந்தி காலங்களில் பட்டா மாறுதல் செய்யப்படுகிறதா என்ற கேள்வி இருந்து வந்தது. அந்தக் கேள்வியும் வழக்கமாக இருந்து வந்தது. இப்பொழுது அந்தக் கேள்வி இல்லை என்பது தெரிய வருமா? பட்டா மாறுதல்கள் அந்தந்த வருஷங்களில் செய்யப்பட வேண்டும். இதைச் சர்க்கார் மறுபடியும் வற்புறுத்துவார்களா?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"Probably, the hon. Member refers to general patta transfer. We are now considering cases under the Estates Abolition Act."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM:—"ஜமீன்தாரி ஒழிப்புச் சட்டத்திற்குத் திருத்தம் ஏற்கனவே இந்த சபையில் வந்து அது நிறுத்தி வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதை மீண்டும் இப்பொழுது கொண்டுவரப்போகிறார்களா?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"I cannot state the exact time. I shall try to bring it as early as possible."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN:—"Is the settlement work taken up on a regional basis or on a district basis? If it is on a regional basis, will the Governmtnt appoint some more officers for districts where the work is heavy?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"Whether it is on a regional or a district basis, it must be on a convenient basis."

Reports in lieu of surcharge made to the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.

9-40 a.m. * 437 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state the number of reports in lieu of surcharge that were made to the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards against the executive authorities of panchayats in the Madras State, during the year 1952–53?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM:—"Twenty-five, Sir."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN:—"எந்தந்த ஜில்லாக்களிலிருந்து இப்படிப்பட்ட ரிப்போர்டுகள் வந்திருக்கின்றன?"